

By: Martinez Fischer

H.B. No. 4011

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to reporting and monitoring of residential high-rise buildings without fire protection sprinkler systems.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 417, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 417.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 417.011. REPORTING AND MONITORING OF FIRE PROTECTION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN RESIDENTIAL HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS

(a) In this section:

(1) "Local government" means a municipality, a county, a special-purpose district or authority, or any other political subdivision of the state.

(2) "Residential high-rise building" means a building used primarily for a residential purpose and that extends 75 feet or more from the ground.

(3) "Fire department" means a department of a local government that is staffed by permanent, full-time employees of the local government and that is organized to prevent or suppress fires.

(4) "Fire protection sprinkler system" means an assembly of underground or overhead piping or conduits that conveys water with or without other agents to dispersal openings or devices to:

(A) extinguish, control, or contain fire; and

1 (B) provide protection from exposure to fire or
2 the products of combustion.

3 (b) Not later than December 1st of each year, beginning with
4 December 1, 2015, local governments and fire departments will
5 coordinate to submit to the fire marshal:

6 (1) A report of all residential high-rise buildings
7 within that local government jurisdiction that are not currently
8 equipped with a fire protection sprinkler system in good working
9 order, including the following information for each building:

10 (A) if the building has a fire protection
11 sprinkler system in only part of the building, and if so, what part;

12 (B) the building's street and mailing address;

13 (C) the name of the owner of the building;

14 (D) the number of current occupants;

15 (E) if at least 50% of the occupants are senior
16 citizens, disabled, or mobility impaired;

17 (F) any previous safety violations; and

18 (G) any other information requested by the fire
19 marshal.

20 (2) If residential high-rise buildings that are not
21 currently equipped with a fire protection sprinkler system in good
22 working order are present in a jurisdiction, then the local
23 government and fire department must also submit:

24 (A) what steps, if any, have been taken to
25 address the issue; and

26 (B) what plans, if any, are in place to address
27 the issue and when the plans will be implemented.

1 (3) The fire marshal may conduct inspections or
2 further investigations.

3 (4) The fire marshal may consult with local
4 governments and fire departments, advise on best practices, and
5 monitor action plans.

6 (5) The fire marshal shall prepare and submit
7 electronically to the Legislature a report of the information
8 collected and analyzed under this section and an assessment of the
9 actions and proposed plans. The report may also include any other
10 information and recommendations that the fire marshal considers
11 necessary.

12 (6) This section expires August 31, 2019.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.